



News for Immediate Release
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Oroville Salmon Festival

OROVILLE -- The 10th annual Salmon Festival in Oroville will be celebrated on Saturday, September 25, coinciding with the fall migration of Feather River Chinook salmon.

The Feather River Fish Hatchery, located on the river across from Historic Downtown Oroville, is the major focal point of this free, annual celebration. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors to the hatchery may enjoy displays, tours, exhibits and food, while learning about the life cycle of Feather River salmon. A special attraction this year will be a 1,500-gallon aquarium stocked with live salmon.

Salmon completing their long return journey from the ocean congregate to spawn at a fish barrier dam just above the hatchery, near the hatchery intake ladder.

“Feather River Fish Hatchery visitors can get an up close view of migrating salmon and see how artificial spawning helps renew the Feather River salmon population for the future,” said John Ford, Oroville Dam tour guide for the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

The hatchery was built by DWR to mitigate the loss of upstream spawning areas when Oroville Dam was built during the 1960s as the key Northern California facility of California’s State Water Project.

Operated by the Department of Fish and Game, the hatchery annually nurtures millions of Chinook salmon. Each spring, it returns more than 10 million salmon to nature. They reach adulthood in the Pacific Ocean, with survivors of their life cycle migrating up the Feather River each fall.

Other Salmon Festival events are slated across the river in nearby Historic Downtown Oroville, including a pancake breakfast, farmer’s market and craft fair. Directly across the river from the fish hatchery at the Feather River Nature Center, guests can see a modern-day continuation of the Maidu Salmon Ceremony with live dancing, hand games and free fish

tasting.

About two miles away, at the Gary Nolan Sports Complex in Oroville, a Native American Pow Wow will provide Intertribal dancing, drumming, food and arts and crafts on Saturday and Sunday.

A free shuttle service to transport people among these events will be available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, except at the Gary Nolan Sports Complex where transit service will be from noon to 5 p.m.

Another salmon related event---a Maidu camp and salmon spearfishing---is slated for Riverbend Park on Saturday and Sunday, but shuttle service is not available to that site.

DWR is a festival co-sponsor, along with such other public agencies as the State Department of Fish and Game and the City of Oroville, and local private sector entities, headed by the Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce.

More information on festival attractions is available online by contacting the Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-655-GOLD. The URL address is: [www. Orovillechamber.net](http://www Orovillechamber.net)

DWR has produced two short videos:

- [Public Service Announcement](#) (5MB .wmv*) - describes the 10th Annual Salmon Festival
- [Oroville Salmon Mitigation](#) (7MB .wmv*) - John Ford, DWR Special Services Guide, explains how the Oroville Salmon Mitigation helps maintain a healthy anadromous fishery on the Feather River.

*download [Windows Media Player](#) for Windows or Mac.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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